

Station X Averages 2400 Calls a Day

BY BETTY DONOVAN

The woman sounded almost hysterical as she poured her complaint into the ears of Patrolman Ralph (Skip) Wallace at Station X.

"He's locked himself into his room again," she wept. "My poor little boy. He doesn't know how to open the door. Please, please send the police."

Calmly, Patrolman Wallace pried from the woman her address. Her "boy," she said was 32 and a former mental patient. Without a change in his voice, Patrolman Wallace questioned the woman further and then dispatched a car to the home.

The call took only 45 seconds, but in that short time Station X operators, including Patrolman Wallace, can learn a lot.

So messages can be properly checked, all emergency calls are recorded on tapes. Each call is noted on a form which is kept in a file at least two years.

"PEOPLE TALK mighty fast sometimes," explained Patrolman Wallace. "We can get most messages. But sometimes, we have to take off the tape recording and play it back to be sure what we heard. Also, if there is a complaint, we have the exact message, in the person's own voice."

The men at Station X learn how to identify a real emergency from a call which may mean only a small family difficulty. It goes on 24 hours a day.

At least 2400 times a day, they lift up a receiver and hear a complaint of minor or great significance. On busy days, such as Fridays, Saturdays and Mondays, they get as many as 2700 calls.

There is a knifing; a woman is expecting a baby; a store manager has been held up; an elderly man had a heart attack . . . all day long the calls come in.

SOME OF THE CALLS require radiograms to places as far distant as Los Angeles or New York. A civilian radio operator, such as Anthony Vaught, handles the radiograms and the inter-city and interstate messages.

Supervisor of radio communications systems, including Station X, is James Hearn, an electronics expert with 26 years of service with the city.

Station X and the fire department are his main clients. But he also has to worry about radio systems of the waterworks and the highway department.

Is snow forecast? Then mobile units of the highway department get on the air.

Is there a water main break? Then the mobile waterworks crews begin sending and receiving messages.

MANY MAJOR cities brag



PATROLMAN ALBERT BOLTON . . . the "beep" says it's recorded

that it takes only eight or 10 minutes to receive a trouble call and have a police or fire vehicle on its way. The average time in Cincinnati is two minutes.

"Sometimes we have men at the scene before the complainant hangs up the telephone," says Mr. Hearn. "We figure an average call is answered by a patrolman on the scene in two minutes."

All of the men manning the radio transmitters at Station X in Eden Park are experienced officers. They have pounded beats and know the kind of problems that beset citizens. That's why they don't panic in emergencies.

Station X is in a brick building with walls two feet thick just alongside the Eden Park reservoir. Windows have bullet-proof glass, and elaborate alarm systems cause bells to ring and lights to flash if anyone tries to open an outer door.

"A crackpot might get into the building some day," said

Mr. Hearn. "But we'd know it in less than a second."

STANDBY transmitters and power systems keep Station X on the air even when ordinary power fails.

An average citizen, hearing police calls for the first time, might wonder what it's all about. Just who is Car 67, for example, and what does it mean when Skip Wallace says: "Car 67, Car 67, signal 44?"

Car 67 is assigned to the Crime Bureau in City Hall, and signal 44 means he should call Station X by his car radio to get a message waiting for him.

Signal 22 means a sick person needs help. Signal 12 means a car somewhere is blocking a driveway.

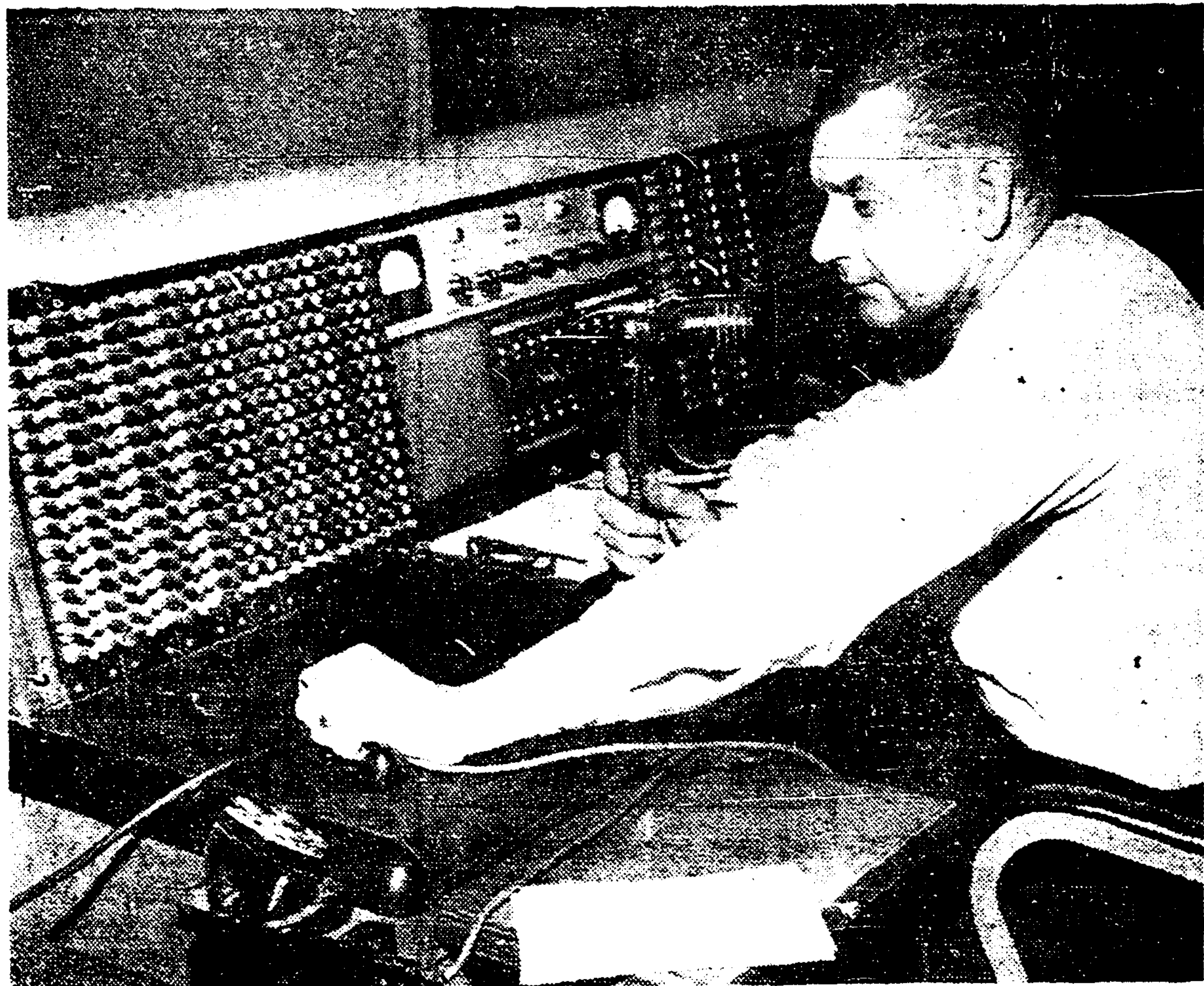
ONE OF THE JOBS of Station X operators is to set up quadrant system when there is a holdup. On the Station X wall is a huge map showing where each police car is assigned.

If a car is not on a run, a green light shows. If the car is busy elsewhere, a red light shows.

"Say there is a bank holdup at Fourth and Plum in District One," explained Patrolman Albert Bolton. "We can see at once that Car 106 is out of commission. Car 104 is on its way to the hospital."

"So, we call for Cars 103, 107, 101 and 102. The green lights show they're available. If they're not available in District One, we may call for cars in Districts Two and Four, or even farther out, depending on which way the suspects went."

Be it a complaint about a boy throwing snowballs (Signal 20) or a man with a gun (Signal 16) Station X hears about it first.



PATROLMAN RALPH WALLACE AT STATION X . . . "Car 67, Car 67, Signal 44"

Mrs. Robert J. Lavell Dies, Wife of Xavier Professor

Requiem High Mass for Mrs. Edna Carolyn Lavell, 64, wife of Robert J. Lavell, professor of education at Xavier University, will be intoned at 9 a. m. Wednesday in St. Vincent Ferrer Church, Kenwood.

Mrs. Lavell died Sunday in Christ Hospital following a short illness. She lived at 7201 Tiki street, Kenwood. She was a member of several church and university organizations.

Her husband was principal of Washington Junior High School from 1940 through 1956. He joined the Xavier faculty in 1956.

She also leaves six daughters, Mrs. Peggy Isaack, Mrs. Betty Wagner, Mrs. Jacqueline Fey, Mrs. Joan O'Conner and Miss Patricia and Miss Carol Lavell; two sons, Robert Jr. and William G.; a sister, Mrs. Agnes Betz; two brothers, Edward C. and William J. Hettshheimer, and nine grandchildren. Quenton Staley funeral home, Kenwood, is in charge.

Harry Wolf

Harry Wolf, 55, owner and operator of Wolf's Cafe, 2100 Vine street, died Sunday night at his home above the cafe.

Mr. Wolf operated the cafe for 21 years. He was a former owner of the Glen Villa Bar, Glenmore avenue, Cheviot.

A sports fan, he backed teams in football, baseball, basketball and bowling nearly every year since he started the business. Eleven championship trophies are displayed in the cafe.

He leaves his wife, Adelia; a son, James W., and his mother, Mrs. Flora Wolf.

Services will be held at 2 p. m. Wednesday in the Charles A. Miller Sons funeral home, Northside.

Mrs. L. A. Steinmann

Services for Mrs. Louisa Fischer Steinmann, 94, who died Saturday at her home, 3393 Fidler's Green road, Mack, will be held at 2 p. m. Tuesday at Neidhard funeral home, Westwood. Burial will be in Bridgetown Cemetery.

Mrs. Steinmann, a pioneer resident of Mack, was the widow of Edward Steinmann, a farmer who died in 1938. She belonged to the First Evangelical Congregational Church, Bridgetown.

Mrs. Steinmann leaves three

sons, Watler, of College Corners, O., and Edward and Henry Steinmann of Mack; two daughters, Mrs. Katherine Stuefee and Mrs. Ella Hollmeyer; a sister, Mrs. Catherine Markland; a brother, Fred Fischer; seven grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

Mrs. M. Fearnought

Funeral services for Mrs. Minnie Fearnought, 65, of 2329 Sherwood lane, Norwood, will be held at 2 p. m. Wednesday at the Anderson-Schraffenberger funeral home.

Mrs. Fearnought died Sunday at the home of a daughter, Mrs. Charles Distel, of 5481 Hill and Dale drive. Mrs. Fearnought leaves her daughter; a son, George Fearnought of Morris-town, N. Y.; a brother, George Conradi, a Post composing room employe, and a sister, Mrs. John Thielen. She also leaves four grandchildren.

Mrs. Fearnought was the widow of the late Albert J. Fearnought. She was employed for several years at the Norwood Gas & Electric Shop. Burial will be in Walnut Hills Cemetery.

Karl R. Keam

Services for Karl R. Keam, 71, retired district sales manager for Mueller Macaroni Co., will be held at 2 p. m. Tuesday Cincinnati Crematory.

Mr. Keam, who lived at 1436 Sutton avenue, Mt. Washington, died Sunday in Christ Hospital following a short illness. He was with the company 30 years before retiring.

He leaves his wife, Frances; a sister, Mrs. Mabel Reiners, and a brother, Ben F. Keam. W. Mack Johnson Funeral Home, Walnut Hills, is in charge.

Mrs. M. Liebermann

Services for Mrs. Margaret Liebermann, 81, a resident of the Cheviot-Westwood area for 50 years, will be held at 11 a. m. Tuesday in Gump Funeral Home, 3440 Glenmore avenue, Cheviot.

Mrs. Liebermann, who lived at 3298 Broadwell avenue, Westwood, died Friday in St. Francis Hospital. She was a charter member of the Cheviot Church of Christ. She leaves a son, Ervin A. Liebermann, a building contractor in Pleasant

Josephine Duwel and Mrs. Hilda Johns, all of Cincinnati, and his wife, Alice, a son Thomas and two grandchildren in Florida.

His late uncle, Frederick Duwel, founded Duwel Hardware Co., now at 3533 Harrison avenue, Cheviot.

A blessing will be offered at 10 a. m. Monday in B. J. Meyer Colonial Funeral Home, Price Hill. Burial will be in St. Joseph Cemetery, Eighth street and Seton avenue.

COURT NEWS

Wedding Party Attackers Jailed

Three Northside men accused of beating up a bridegroom and his best man were sentenced to 30 days in the Workhouse and fined \$50 each by Judge Gilbert Bettman of Police Court Monday.

James Staggs, 28, of 530 Enright avenue; Calvin Handlon, 21, of 4701 Este avenue, and Ralph Mullins, 29, of 4354 Winton road, were arrested early Sunday at Spring Grove avenue and Elmore street and charged with assault and battery.

Police said the three men stopped a wedding party auto carrying Mr. and Mrs. Robert Harper, of Lebanon pike, the newlyweds; Mr. and Mrs. Russell Boone, of 4419 Colerain avenue, and Miss Janice Brown, of 2509 Halstead street.

Mr. Harper and Mr. Boone, the best man, were pulled from their auto and beaten. Three other men in the attackers' auto fled.

Woman Is Killed As Auto Upsets

Mrs. Viola Ellery, 52, of 59 Kings Run court, Winton Place, died Sunday afternoon in St. Luke Hospital, Ft. Thomas, 2½ hours after the auto in which she was riding overturned on U. S. 27, one mile north of Falmouth, Ky.

Mrs. Ellery's son, George, same address, who was driving the car, was not hurt. He told Kentucky state police he attempted to pass another auto, skidded on ice and went over

Gas Fumes Kill Two, Clogged Flue Blamed

Despite the inspection efforts of three city departments, the "silent killer" still kills. It took two more lives over the weekend and left a third victim in serious condition.

A clogged flue on a gas heater claimed the latest victims in a third floor apartment at 1628 Central avenue.

The dead are:

cincinnati this year, but there have been seven accidents. In January, 1957, there also were two deaths in eight accidents, and in January, 1956, there were three deaths in eight accidents.